



**INDUSTRIAL WORKERS
OF THE WORLD**

INDUSTRIAL WORKER

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION

VOLUME 81, NUMBER 10 WN 1457

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, OCTOBER 1984

25 CENTS

Danly: Fighting for their Jobs

It's 6:30 in the morning, and the first scabs are beginning to cross picket lines to enter the Danly Machine Corporation plant in Cicero (a suburb of Chicago). Striking workers surround the plant in small clusters, carefully adhering to a temporary restraining order limiting pickets to five per gate. Security guards—many of them moonlighting Chicago police—are taking pictures of the strikers (sometimes they use video cameras and sound-recording equipment as well), and every once in a while they will call in Cicero police and have a striker arrested.

The "temporary" restraining order prohibits effective picketing and bans most efforts to convince scabs not to cross picket lines. As the strike continues, the judge keeps extending its terms. Union officials scurry around making sure that no gate has more than the legally permissible five pickets, helping to enforce an anti-labor law that permits scabs to pour across the lines. Some 150 scabs will cross the lines today before the gates close at 7 in a plant that employed more than 400 workers before the strike began May 1st.

On July 18th, Danly—which was recently bought by the multinational Ogden Corporation—began hiring permanent replacements for the striking workers. As the *Industrial Worker* goes to press, however, few workers have come forward for these jobs, and most of these lacked the skills necessary to maintain production. On some days more than 200 workers are inside the plant, but strikers maintain that they are "worthless" when it comes to producing the heavy machinery (such as auto presses) that Danly manufactures. Entire departments in key areas are still out, and there has been no production since the strike began 15 weeks ago.

Despite this, Danly is holding firm, threatening to close the factory rather than abandon its demands for concessions. When the strike began, Danly was demanding mandatory overtime, elimination of seniority rights, work-rule changes, a three-year wage freeze, and reduced pay for new workers. Danly's workers—members of Steel Workers Local 15271—rejected the pact, with 97% voting to strike.

On August 8th management presented a new proposal, which would have retained the three-year wage freeze, eliminated seniority rights for all strikers, and required other concessions. The workers have regarded this offer as an insult, and have vowed to stay out till they win.

Although the strike is not going well, victory remains possible, largely because the company currently has a huge backlog of orders which it cannot possibly fill with its scab labor force. Indeed, strikers estimate that most of the 500 workers on layoff when the strike began would have to be recalled, along with the strikers, in order to meet production. Yet management is deter-



Jeering strikers greet a carload of scabs at the Danly Machine Corporation. Workers have been on strike since

May 1st of this year, fighting management demands for concessions.

mined to break the union, and appears prepared to suffer heavy losses to do so. Before the strike, when the company was fighting for concessions, Danly hung a huge banner over the street reading "We want more jobs in Cicero, not Tokyo!" Workers recognized this as a ploy at the time; now Danly has sublet three orders for the huge metal presses it manufactures to a plant in Italy.

The United Steel Workers of America have begun leaf-letting Ogden facilities across the country, and have been picketing Ogden headquarters in New York City along with other unions, in the first steps of a campaign aimed at forcing the Ogden Corporation to settle the strike or face losses in its other activities, which range from canned foods to racetracks to shipbuilding.

While welcoming the solidarity, however, Danly strikers do not seem too impressed by this tactic. Many of them do expect to win—largely because of the huge backlog of orders and because Danly needs skilled workers to resume effective production—but they feel that more effective strategies are needed to win strikes today. Several workers spoke of the need for all contracts across the country to expire on the same day, with the workers

refusing to go back to work till all contracts had been settled. Others argued for a "coalition of unions, representing all workers in the country", saying that only such an organization could beat back the current management offensive.

All the workers on the lines have welcomed what little support they have received from other unions. IWW and AFSCME members have walked the picket lines at Danly, and have been warmly received. Several workers—including hundreds of Danly strikers—attended a solidarity rally July 14th (where scores of copies of the *Industrial Worker* were distributed), although many workers resented the fact that the speeches were more political—aimed at promoting Mondale's candidacy—than labor-oriented. Similarly, the failure of many of the labor leaders who spoke to provide the sorts of material solidarity they promised rankles to many.

But as the fourth month of this strike comes to a close, many strikers are bitter. They are angry that they must sit back and watch scabs take their jobs, disappointed that the labor solidarity and joint action necessary to win this strike quickly has yet to materialize. Many have become disgusted with the political system and its role in supporting Danly, although others hope to stop the use of Chicago police as scab-herders by playing politicians off against each other.

But playing political games will not win this strike. What we need is the solidarity of labor brought to bear against the bosses to force them to meet our terms. Picket lines must shut down production, no matter what the law says. Workers must refuse to handle scab goods or provide services (such as delivery, electricity, and phone

(continued on Page 4)

Apple Pickers Organizing Begins

If you're an apple picker, please read this!

An effort to get apple-orchard workers in Washington State's Columbia Valley organized has started. IWW members, now picking in Chelan, called a public meeting in mid-August to get other orchard workers involved. While the turnout was small, other meetings are being held in a better location.

In addition to the usual wage-slavery issue is the problem of working conditions. Piece rates vary widely, depending on region, race of pickers, the orchard owner/manager's mood, and/or what other owners are paying in the area. Housing ranges from well-kept trailers and cabins to nothing. Intense racism has been fostered as Mexican and US pickers compete for jobs. The growers pay the Mexicans less, and the US pickers feel shafted. The problem, of course, is not the nationality of the workers. It is the willingness of growers to play the two groups off against each other for the sake of higher profits.

Health and safety is another prime focus in improving working conditions. The orchards are liberally dosed with a variety of sprays including herbicides, pesticides, and ripening agents. While New York State banned the rodent poison Endrin two years ago, it is still in use in Washington and is a known carcinogen. Alar, a chemical which

helps the apples stay in the trees until evenly ripened, and is used in nearly all orchards, has just been found to be carcinogenic by a University of Washington research team. Sprays affect everyone, including growers and their families.

This campaign will be difficult, as most workers still migrate to the orchards in fall for picking jobs, in winter for pruning, and in spring for thinning. We spend only a month or two in the area if we don't live there, and getting workers together is hard when you're always moving around. But we've already raised \$500 for a campaign fund from IWW members around the US and Canada, and we hope to have a network of activists and supporters by the end of this year's harvest.

Whether we end up with an IWW-affiliated union, an independent orchard workers' organization, or neither is up to workers and the extent of their involvement. We have plenty of IWW literature and membership cards available. Contact:

Orchard Workers Project
General Delivery
Chelan, Washington 98816

Only two IWW members have (legal) access to mail sent to this address, and contacts are confidential. If you are an interested orchard worker, please get a hold of us.

MORE BRITISH POLICE CLASH WITH STRIKING MINERS

British police reported in the second week of August that 1650 striking coal miners staged hit-and-run raids on two coal pits and the regional office of the National Coal Board. Dozens of cars were attacked and scores of windows smashed in the three separate overnight attacks at Sutton-in-Ashfield and Bircotes, both in the county of Nottinghamshire, and at Doncaster in the adjoining county of Yorkshire to the north. Since the walkout started March 12th, two strikers have been killed on the picket lines, 2,000 pickets and police have been injured, and 4,000 pickets have been arrested.

Meanwhile the British Government, cheered by the settlement of the national dock strike over the use of non-union labor, claims to have enough coal stockpiled to withstand the coal strike without power cuts, even if the strike continues into the next year.



The old Swiss turners who had built many "turnverein" halls in cities with large German-speaking populations believed firmly in the motto of "a strong body and a healthy mind". They were inspired by the ancient Olympics of classical Greece, where the development of a strong body meant that a healthy mind would have longer to live.

Unfortunately, some two millennia later Thorstein Veblen, a maverick economist and pedagogue, saw fit to quip that athletics was a deterioration of the mind. One can scarcely dispute old Veblen in these times when certain governments spend large sums of their taxpayers' money to train muscle-bound clones for the quadrennial orgy of nationalistic chauvinism that is supposed to continue the proud tradition of the ancient Greeks.

One would think from the televised coverage of the last month that it was a United States Olympics rather than an international one: that the participating athletes from other parts of the World were there just to have someone for the US to win against—for all that was shown of other countries winning any medals. As one columnist pointed out, these "international" Olympics were not "held" but produced, as the commercial breaks were right on schedule even though all other programming was pre-empted. What was that you said, Thorstein?

During those eventful days a host of Chicano, Latino, and Mexican organizations had formed a coalition for the purpose of holding mass demonstrations to focus the attention of visitors from other countries, particularly the press, on a number of significant issues. Among those issues were the harassment of Mexican people, discriminatory hiring practices, the racial bias of the Simpleton-Mazola Bill, and most important of all, the US Government's financial and military support of the genocide in El Salvador and Guatemala.

These demonstrations were carried off as planned, and it is hoped that some of the international news-media representatives were exposed to some of what the army of security forces present round the clock wanted to "protect" them from. As far as the Stateside media were concerned, nothing took place but the winning of medals. Not even the Los Angeles media made any mention of the demonstrations.

However there was a concerted effort to ensure that not only the international news media and the Olympic contenders, but also the hosts of visitors from around the World would be presented with a wholesome all-American image of the City of Angels. Vagabonds and down-and-outers were picked up en masse and hustled out of town, and all graffiti were painted over so there would be nothing to give any indication of discontent.

There are those in Los Angeles, however, who seem to treat murals and graffiti with equal disdain, as one young Chicana muralist is finding out. Certain portions of her large mural in downtown Los Angeles were white-washed over, and the two chief areas thus censored happened to be a homage to Mexican muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros, who was a long-standing critic of the United States, and the artist's own statement on the internment of Americans of Japanese descent during World War Two.

Siqueiros, it must be remembered, was persona non grata in Freedomland because he was a dedicated communist-liner. Your scribe, however, has seen one of his Mexican murals in which Mikhail Bakunin, Ricardo Flores-Magon, and Karl Marx are marching together with a group of Mexican revolutionaries, and Siqueiros was supposed to have been the most doctrinaire of all the Stalinists down there.

The other panel that offended the whitewash wielders so much showed a little Japanese girl behind a barbed-wire fence. Perhaps they were afraid some visiting Japanese athletes might have been motivated to win some medals from under Unkle Schlemiel's nose. As of this writing it is not known how many murals failed to measure up to the approval of those who wanted to present a wholesome all-American image.

However, let it not be said that there is any anti-Mexican bias rearing its ugly head here. After all, they did match some long-armed Chicano from the East Los Angeles barrio with a short-armed Korean so he could win. Furthermore, let it not be forgotten that around Olympics time old Unkie thinks quite highly of his minorities.

Thorsten, *du alte filisof*, where are you now that we need you?

C. C. Redcloud

PRISONER DESIRES CORRESPONDENCE

Andrew Stamps, a prisoner in Mississippi, is interested in corresponding with people in the free world. You can write him at Unit 27, Mississippi Department of Corrections, Parchman, Mississippi 38738.

Needed: WORLD UNIONISM!

We live on a round ball only 8,000 miles in diameter. It wasn't until 1522 that anyone sailed around it, and that took three years. Nowadays satellites get around it in a couple of hours. Via such satellites we can hear a soprano in Australia hit high C a tiny fraction of a second before people in the back row here it there, and also via such satellites a man in New York can set type simultaneously on all continents. We get food and clothing from far places, and often depend for our jobs on folks there buying whatever we make.

What sort of boundaries does modern capitalism have? Go to a public library and spend an hour browsing through *Moody's Industrials* or any similar manual. You will see what the auto companies own around the world and what they make there, or the big mining and metal-working companies or chemical concerns. Check out the literature on the handful of companies which control mankind's food supply. Take a peek at who in Europe is buying what stock in America, and vice-versa. Then ask yourself what the labor movement is doing to keep pace.

Yes, a world boycott of Coca-Cola did win a settlement of sorts for some workers in Guatemala, but what other acts of transnational solidarity have you noticed lately? Unions everywhere seem primarily concerned with keeping jobs from moving across borders. In Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden, and West Germany, unions have focused on advance notice of plant closings, arrangements for early retirement, and re-training.

With unemployment over 10% throughout Europe, the demand has grown for a shorter work week. Strikes and other union pressures have cut it to about 38.5 hours in France and West Germany, but in Great Britain the average work week has risen to 42.2 hours, and here in the US it has lengthened from 39.7 hours in 1980 to 40.9 hours at last count. Unions have been held in check on the reduction of hours by the threat that their work will move to other countries. They are told that clerks in Calcutta and garment workers in Mexico getting about \$2 a day would welcome some overtime.

A century ago labor was fighting for the eight-hour day, and often winning it. Today we can produce many many times as much steel or wheat or socks in an hour as we could then, and we still consume the same basic things. Is it any wonder that some have no job? Or that more and more of our jobs are to make sure people pay for things rather than to make things we can use—or to make things that ought never to be made?

It is for lack of appropriate organization that workers let themselves be used against each other across towns or across oceans. There has been a two-generation lag between the expansion of markets and the expansion of union structures to match. In America, when the canals and steamboats and railroads brought the industries of different areas into competition with each other, back before the Civil War, there was need for nationwide craft unions, but they did not develop (except for the printers) till the 1880s. By that time the factory had replaced the small craftsman's workshop and we needed industrial unions, but outside of the IWW, the coal miners, and a few others, there was little industrial structure till the rise of the CIO in the mid-'30s. Can we wait another 50 years to bring union structure up to the demands of the modern world, so that we workers will back each other up in all lands and quit undermining each other?

Shortly after the Civil War, coal miners organized by counties in Pennsylvania and tried to get steadier work by agreeing with their employers to work cheaper than their fellow miners in adjoining counties so as to get more of the coal market. That didn't work, so in 1880 they organized nationwide, hoping to bargain nationwide. That worked better.

Today we hear talk that if workers in Missouri would buy only goods made in Missouri, that would make Mis-

souri a prosperous place. That won't work either. In this age when you lose track of on what continent your shoes were made or your hamburger walked on the hoof, you can't do much with tariff walls. What we need to do is help our fellow workers everywhere get more for their work. Then they can buy more of what we make, and we can buy more of what they make. It's that simple. But meanwhile transnational corporations play us against each other, telling us here and there that we'll have jobs only if we work cheaper than they do.

To fight this global effort of corporations to worsen the lot of workers everywhere, we need to make this clear: It is much better for mankind for working people to make global-solidarity decisions than for the corporations to have their way.

Consider this simple fact: Last year mankind spent \$683 billion on military purposes. That's more than the total income of the poorer half of mankind. Some may say that building arms gives us more jobs. But does it? To build more arms the American Government borrows more money, which raises the interest rates here. That gets Europeans and others with money to send it here to get the higher interest, and this in turn both increases unemployment abroad and raises the exchange rate so as to make it harder to sell US goods abroad. Thus US arms building increases unemployment both here and elsewhere.

Spend a few hours contemplating what better use could have been made of that \$683 billion that went for military purposes, remembering that it exceeds the total income of the poorer half of mankind. There are folks in Calcutta who sleep under bridges because they have no homes—and folks sleeping the same way in New York and Chicago. There is unsold grain in the US and Argentina, and children are dying of starvation throughout Central Africa. And there are dry-docked seamen who would have been happy to take the grain there.

There is little use in dreaming of what good things we might have done with that \$683 billion. But it does make sense for us to urge labor organizations the world over to undertake such collective thinking. We are not likely to do much to avoid undermining each other's pay till we also take action to avoid being used to kill each other. The two go hand-in-hand—and on both issues it is the working class against the class that rules and robs us.

Who out there wants to get started on some global economic planning about what work we ought to stop doing, what work we ought to start doing, and what we ought to send where to make this globe the happy home of the human race?

Fred Thompson

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION of the INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people, and the few who make up the employing class have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system.

We find that the centering of the management of industries in fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.


These conditions can be changed and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever there is a strike or a lockout in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for the everyday fight with capitalists, but also to carry on production once capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

ONE UNION ONE LABEL ONE ENEMY



★ ORGANIZATION

★ EMANCIPATION

★ EDUCATION

Industrial Worker

The *Industrial Worker* (ISSN 0019-8870) is the official organ of the Industrial Workers of the World, 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago, Illinois 60657, phone (312) 549-5045. It is owned entirely by the IWW, and is issued monthly. Second-class postage paid at Chicago. Unless designated as official policy, articles in the *Industrial Worker* do not necessarily represent the official position of the Industrial Workers of the World. No paid or commercial advertising ever accepted. The *Industrial Worker* is mailed without a wrapper to cut expenses, but a wrapper can be requested.

Editorial Collective:

Bruce Arnold, Carlos Cortez, Mike Hargis,
Marriane McMullen, Penny Pixler, Fred Thompson
General Secretary-Treasurer: Jon Bekken
Please send all copy to: Industrial Worker,
3435 North Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois 60657.
The deadline for all copy is the 10th of each month.

Wherehouse Negotiations Enter Crucial Period

The People's Wherehouse IU 660 Job Branch (IWW) has entered a crucial period. The IWW has been negotiating a contract since November of last year, fighting for workplace democracy in the face of growing "capitalist" and "professionalist" business practices.

Tentative agreement on workers' rights and workplace democracy had been reached, and negotiations were beginning on economic issues when management revealed its long-range strategy for the Wherehouse in its preliminary bargaining position on worker compensation. Essentially, management is committed to restructuring the Wherehouse, creating a "traditional" business structure using "traditional" business practices.

The day after management's position became known, 12 out of 13 workers left their jobs to conduct a demonstration in front of the Wherehouse, in response to which management altered its negotiating position. The fact that 12 workers were willing to take direct action is good; but participation was limited to the blue-collar and clerical departments, indicating a greater problem in the workplace.

The Michigan Federation of Food Co-operatives, which owns the People's Wherehouse, has been attacking workplace democracy for over two years, but workers have been slow to respond to this attack: Because workers still manage a great deal of the Wherehouse operation and retain a great deal of freedom on the shop floor, the erosion of workplace democracy has been disguised.

Management's opposition to unionization seemingly collapsed last fall. The IWW had organized nearly all the blue-collar workers at that point, and had won collective-bargaining rights for these departments. We were beginning to make inroads into the white-collar departments when management consented to the Union's representing all workers employed by the People's Wherehouse. This consent agreement nearly doubled the size of the bargaining unit, but organization in white-collar departments is extremely weak.

The Job Branch had decided on a low-key approach to bargaining, striving to reach an agreement that would re-establish a wide spectrum of worker management. Just before negotiations began, however, management unilaterally created a new structure which imposed department managers. Before this, departments had been self-managed, with elected and recallable co-ordinators. These co-ordinators were included in the bargaining unit and many are active in the union. The Branch filed an unfair-labor-practice charge over management's action, but this response has proven inadequate. As new workers are hired as managers, they are receiving higher pay than

regular workers and co-ordinators (equal pay is a long-standing practice at the Wherehouse).

The tentative agreement on workers' rights and workplace democracy would effectively strip the department managers of any real control, though these managers would remain a potential scab force and an ongoing economic drag on the shop. (A similar management structure imposed on our University Cellar bookstore Job Branch has been largely responsible for heavy operating losses, which management has used as an excuse to try to force wage concessions.)

But the consent agreement brought a sizable minority of workers into the bargaining unit who were opposed to the IWW. These workers are concentrated in purchasing and customer relations, and have been acting as a fifth column within the Union. They have been the chief proponents of the Federation's propaganda on co-operatives, espousing an ideology which in practice is nothing more than a poor reflection of capitalist business practices cloaked in the verbiage of co-operation. Unfortunately many workers have been confused by this propaganda, and for a time were willing to accept the line of co-operation for co-operation's sake. As negotiations continued, however, this line lost credibility.

Because of the Branch's weakened position, unsure of the commitment of most of its white-collar workers to workplace democracy and suffering substantial turnover in the blue-collar departments that were the Union's strength, greater effort was directed toward organizing and recruitment. As a result, the IWW has maintained nearly unanimous membership in the blue-collar departments despite the heavy turnover.

Management has introduced a compensation plan featuring a multi-level wage package, reduced insurance coverage, and the creation of three categories of blue-collar workers. If this plan were adopted, it would even further exacerbate the existing divisions between blue-collar and white-collar workers and between "managers" and regular workers.

Management has been using various methods to divide the workplace, but except for the divisions between blue-collar and white-collar workers these efforts have been largely unsuccessful. The management proposal spelled out in detail just how divided management wants the workplace to become, and the job action this proposal provoked demonstrated better than any talk the actual divisions in the workplace and the determination of our

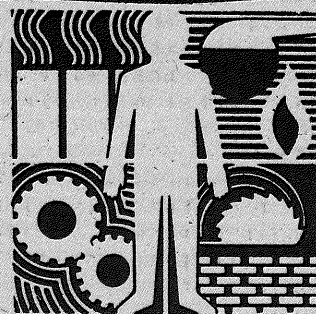
fellow workers to resist this package.

In addition, resistance on the shop floor is being manifested in various ways. Although the sharing of information is essential to the Wherehouse's operation, many workers are now withholding information from department managers to prevent them from establishing control over the workplace. Management's efforts to foster fear and mistrust among workers are being combatted as the Job Branch works to expose management's plans for what they are: capitalist practices eroding the foundations of worker co-operation and consumer ownership.

X332142

Fred Thompson's

labor in north america



"Employee-owned" Weirton Steel made \$23 million in second-quarter profits, and plans to lay off 250 more workers in addition to the 437 already laid off. It has 8,000 on its payroll.

At US Steel's old South Works in Chicago, a lean staff of a thousand workers run an electric furnace and a beam mill and read reports that experts figure there is no hope for it: too many non-union small mills making re-inforcing rods, too much imported structural steel....

Down in Arizona Phelps-Dodge has laid off most of its scabs—not because of the union picket line, but because of imports and the reduced market for copper. We are up against more than scabs and arbitrary managements; we need the rational re-organization of the world-wide industrial process so we can do our work for the collective good.

As of last June over eight million unemployed workers in the US were receiving no unemployment benefits, for they had been out of work so long they had lost their claims. That left 2.5 million collecting benefits. In July unemployment rose by another 413,000. Capitalism Incorporated tells these millions: Since we have bargained these workers down and prodded them into working harder, we can't sell the stuff they are making now—so why feed you? Let's abolish Capitalism Incorporated. Why should chairman Roderich of US Steel worry about unemployment? Last year he drew \$606,000.

In Lynn, Massachusetts, electrical workers (IUEW) reluctantly voted to work 12-hour shifts to accommodate new robots. GE is planning to invest \$50 million in robots for that plant, and with so much invested in them wants them to work day and night. This means three 12-hour shifts one week and four the next week, with overtime after eight hours. GE claimed that its only alternative was to build elsewhere.

The four unions representing 600,000 Postal Service workers sought an injunction against the two-tier wage cut that the PO "offered", and asked for federal mediation. They had planned to leave the issue up to the late-August conventions of these unions, but circumstances forced earlier action. Many postal employees are wondering what the "Great Communicator" would do if they all went out on strike.

The strike of 50,000 members of District 1199 against 71 hospitals and nursing homes in New York City began two weeks after contract expiration, as these workers were reluctant to leave patients unattended. The union also arranged that on each picket line there would be a committee ready to offer emergency services if necessary.

If Auto Workers don't come out of this year's negotiations with some benefits, it won't be because the companies are losing money. Negotiations cover 144,000 at Ford and 350,000 at GM, which is re-opening two plants it had closed. In 1982 union concessions ran to \$3 billion for GM and another billion for Ford, while last year Ford gave its chairman a bonus of \$1.4 million and GM gave its chairman \$1.5 million. The major union concern is a greater measure of job security—and some feel they can help achieve that with a union rep on the Board. They will be reminded that they have to work in a world market; but will they start doing what workers will have to do in a world market—organize it too?

The Food and Commercial Workers ask that we abstain from buying turkeys from Marvel Poultry, where they have been on strike since early June. However the turkeys are sold under 28 brand names. The company was bought out by Rocco Enterprises, which refused to do any real bargaining. This seems to have become the pattern with new buyers of old plants.

Homicide by Silicosis

A homicide ruling by the Cook County, Illinois medical examiner in early July involving the death of a former employee of the Illinois Brick Company has stirred interest in the relatively-unpublicized but deadly work-related disease called silicosis. The medical examiner said he asked for a criminal investigation into the death of Ellis Medlin, 44 (who died November 21st, 1983, after working at the brick company for 15 years), because he said that the Company, now closed, should have known silica dust was hazardous and should have warned its employees. A second brother, Alton, a 20-year employee of the Company, died of silicosis in 1981. A third brother, Donald, who had worked at Illinois Brick as a forklift driver, also suffers from the disease.

When Illinois Brick shut down in 1981, it had about 30 employees, at least eight of whom have filed claims with the Illinois Industrial Commission under the state Occupational Diseases Act.

The homicide ruling by the Cook County medical office is the second one involving an employee's work environment. Last year the cyanide poisoning of an industrial worker (reported in the January 1984 *Industrial Worker*) was also ruled homicide, resulting in the murder indictments of five management officials of Film Recovery Systems, where the victims worked. None of the five has been brought to trial, and one is currently living in Utah, from whence Utah's Governor refuses to extradite

him, calling him a "fine gentleman".

Silicosis is caused by the repeated inhalation of finely-ground silica dust, composed of sand and quartz. This leads to extensive destruction of lung tissue. Silica is the basic ingredient in bricks and is also used to produce ceramics and as a cleaning agent in sandblasting.

Silicosis has been recognized as a serious industrial hazard since the 1930s. In one widely-reported case at that time, 1976 workers contracted the disease while digging a tunnel through the silica rock of a sandstone mountain at Gauley Bridge in southern West Virginia, and 476 died of it. The deaths sparked a Congressional investigation during which the builder of the project was accused of being "worse than Dillinger and Al Capone and guilty of cold-blooded murder".

Despite that tragedy, the extent of this hazardous disease remains relatively unknown today because of inadequate medical and environmental monitoring and unclear job classification, according to a 1980 federal Labor Department report to Congress. The report states that of an estimated one million workers exposed to silica particles in such industries as metal mining, rock quarrying, ceramics, abrasive blasting, and cement and brick production, about 59,000 contracted the disease, which can be prevented by good ventilation and protective masks.

pfp

ing that nearly all economic indicators were down, indicating actual shrinkage of the economy.

The next day stockholders were jubilant, greeting the news that unemployment was once again on the rise (up to an official 7½% figure, not including "discouraged" workers and those who have never held a job) with a second round of higher stock prices. The media, of course, were quick to proclaim that these increases in stock values—which benefit only the small minority of owners—was proof that the economy was "still" healthy, and that prosperity is just around the corner.

The facts, however, suggest a different story. This latest economic news is yet more evidence that the bosses' profits are directly predicated on the misery of workers, and that as our economic condition improves the bosses' profits are likely to fall. And yet the AFL-CIO continues to preach the perverse belief that workers and bosses share common interests.



BOSSSES CELEBRATE UNEMPLOYMENT, ECONOMIC DECLINE

In early August the stock market surged forward as Government reports showed that the economy was not recovering after all. August 2nd saw major advances in stock prices as the Government released statistics show-

Pregnant Workers: Fight For Your Rights

Throughout the first half of this century, pregnant women in the US were held to be "unemployable". This meant they were not considered eligible for unemployment compensation, medical coverage, or disability payments. They had no employment rights whatsoever. They were not hired, were automatically fired or forced to take lengthy unpaid leaves if already employed, lost seniority and promotions, and were not guaranteed that they could return to their old jobs after maternity leave.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination on sexual grounds. It required a further amendment—the Pregnancy Discrimination Act (PDA) of 1978—to specifically forbid discrimination against pregnant workers. The PDA mandated that pregnant women have access to the same fringe benefits as men. In other words, pregnancy could not be singled out as a special case *not* deserving special coverage.

The problem is, of course, that men are never pregnant or breast feeding. A model based on the male as the norm offers an equality of form only, and does not take into account the physical and social realities of women's lives. Thus the PDA does not insist on a minimal benefit package, such as paid (or even unpaid) parental leave and medical coverage, much less consider prenatal doctor's appointments and breast feeding.

A worker in a cosmetics factory (six weeks after the birth of her child) told of getting a call from the personnel department telling her that all maternity leaves had been stopped. "I called the union to find out what was happening. They said there will be no more maternity leaves and that we have the ERA to thank for it. [I] They told me to go to the doctor and say I'm too nervous, make up excuses to get an extension of disability. You'd think after 13 years they would give a person a few months off with her baby."

Employers have also demonstrated their hostility toward working mothers by harshly refusing to accommodate their breast-feeding needs. The breast-feeding worker is neither ill nor temporarily disabled. She is a fully-capable worker who merely requires facilities at work to enable her to pump her breasts and refrigerate her milk till she takes it home for her baby. If she is denied the opportunity to pump her breasts, they may become engorged and her milk supply may drop.

One woman returned to work at an auto-assembly plant after her maternity leave with a note from her personal physician saying she was fit and ready to return to work. The company physician, however, barred her because she was breast feeding. The company explained: "To allow a nursing mother to work would foist upon the company a burden to bear the resulting inefficiencies of lost production from time spent away from her job." Fortunately, the union grieved and won. The company policy was changed and the woman got the wages she had lost while barred from the plant.

BOMBEB!

"PERMISSIBLE" RADIATION KILLS WORKER

This spring the Colorado Industrial Commission ruled in a workmen's-compensation case that an employee, LeRoy Krumbach, at the US Energy Department's nuclear-weapons factory at Rocky Flats, Colorado died as a result of radiation exposure considered permissible under federal regulations. Krumbach died in 1973 of cancer of the colon after working for 15 years on a nuclear-weapons assembly line at the plant outside Denver. He was one of the workers assigned to airtight "glove boxes" at the plant. (Workers put their arms into gloves built into the boxes and use them to perform such work as cutting plutonium metal into bomb parts.) At work Krumbach was exposed to 45 rems of radiation in his 15-year career, averaging three rems a year. For over 10 years his widow has been seeking compensation on the ground that even supposedly low levels of radiation exposure over time were enough to cause fatal cancer.

The Commission decision has ramifications for the entire nuclear industry. The same standards of allowable radiation are observed for workers in nuclear-power plants and nuclear-waste-disposal plants, as well as nuclear-weapons factories. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's view is that all radiation exposure carries some risk and should be avoided if possible, but nuclear workers are people who accept some radiation exposure in return for financial gain. The NRC is considering cutting the number of rems of radiation a worker is allowed to be exposed to over fixed periods of time, however.

A statement by the Environmental Defense Fund, a Colorado group long opposed to allowing the factory that uses radioactive plutonium to make triggers for US hydrogen bombs to operate in the congested Denver-Boulder area, predicted that the Krumbach decision could produce a flurry of similar judgments in favor of people who worked at nuclear-power plants and nuclear-weapons factories throughout the nation. The NRC ruling is subject to appeal and court review.

The United States is alone among the industrialized nations of the world in not guaranteeing compensation to working women at the time of childbirth. Some 75 countries, including many developing nations, guarantee work leave at the time of delivery—with job, seniority, and pension protection—and payments to replace wages (equal to all or a portion of insured wages), usually provided through the Social Security system.

In a survey of policies in 16 countries, the minimum paid maternity leave was 12 weeks in Israel, the maximum was 12 months in Sweden, and most were 5 or 6 months. Usually part of the leave (generally six weeks) is taken before the expected birth. Prenatal and post-natal medical coverage and hospital coverage are included. Job modification without penalty and the right to nurse at work also are standard.

The motivations behind such legislation have usually been to protect the health of mothers and infants, to provide incentives to encourage child-bearing (particularly in Eastern European countries), and to draw women into the labor force during labor shortages. Neither the public-health, pro-natal, or labor-force goals are explicitly feminist—that is, designed to end female subordination and expand women's options. These measures enable women to perform somewhat more easily the dual roles of worker and mother, but leave unchallenged the assumption that children and homemaking are women's chief responsibilities. The measures recognize the importance of jobs and income for women, but take the inequitable balance between women and men in terms of domestic responsibilities for granted.

Parental Leave and Unions

In these times of concessions and high unemployment, contract negotiators may think they are doing well to avoid giving back anything, let alone raising new demands against the bosses. But only by fighting can workers hope to win. It is unlikely, in these times of

reactionary government, that US workers can hope to win anything by legislation.

Maternity-leave provisions were a key demand in a recent Canadian postal workers' strike. In New York City, at the height of the fiscal crisis, the municipal employees' union, District Council 37, won a clause in their contract guaranteeing three years of unpaid maternity leave, with both salary-level and seniority retention, for women or men at the time of childbirth or adoption. Women airline employees, members of the Brotherhood (sic) of Railway and Airline Clerks, became active within their local (sometimes for the first time) in order to defend their right to leave at the time of childbirth or adoption.

Workers in unions can be prepared to demand contract provisions that will allow women workers to work and to parent. Such provisions should include:

(1) temporary job modification to accommodate the physical changes of pregnancy (with salary and seniority retention);

(2) temporary transfer to a safer job if the present job cannot be adequately modified (again with salary and seniority retention);

(3) paid leave time to attend prenatal classes and medical appointments;

(4) paid leave during late stages of pregnancy and to recuperate from childbirth;

(5) paid leave for either or both parents—including adoptive parents—to care for new babies;

(6) facilities for breast feeding, such as break time and a place for pumping breasts, and refrigeration for storage of breast milk (one option would be on-site infant care so women could breast feed during work breaks);

(7) paid leave for either or both parents to care for sick children.

plp (adapted from *MS*, Volume 13, Number 3)

NOTICE? DID YOU NOTICE? DID YOU

THE SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM is determined to leave no stone unturned in its campaign to pressure 18-year-olds into registering for the draft. Its efforts have included television and billboard ads, posters in post offices, mailings to lists drawn from driver's-license and commercial-mailing-house lists, and cutoffs of education loans to would-be college students. Recently, though, the SSS reached a new low by buying a list of people who were slated to get free ice cream on their birthdays from Farrell's Ice Cream Parlour. But then, this is an Administration pledged to get the Government off our backs (and into our ice-cream cones?).

DRESS CODE HITS THE PITS: Laural K. Llewellyn, who worked as a deck hand on a charter boat docking at Waialiki, Hawaii, was fired for refusing to shave her armpits. The company claimed that her refusal violated its appearance policy. Llewellyn is filing a suit, but as yet there has been no word on the outcome or on whether male deck hands have been asked to adhere to the armpit policy.

BEWARE OF TUPPERWARE: Last summer, managers at the First American Bank and Trust Company in Willmar, Minnesota didn't pay much attention to all the Tupperware parties their female employees were having. So when two-thirds of the employees signed union cards—the Tupperware parties being camouflage for an organizing drive—management was taken by surprise. In 1977, eight tellers at another Willmar bank went on strike for union recognition and remained on the picket lines through a bitter Minnesota winter, inspiring two films: *The Willmar 8* and a made-for-TV movie. The first Willmar strike was lost but not useless: The second bank promptly recognized its employees' union.

LABOR-UNION WOMEN hold reunion: Over 1200 delegates and observers attended the 10th-anniversary reunion in Chicago of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, including union officials and rank-and-file members from over 40 unions in the US and representatives from over 21 countries. In its first 10 years, the CLUW has teetered between trying to gain legitimacy in the male-dominated union bureaucracy and challenging the AFL-CIO's historic neglect of women's issues. It has been most successful in securing leadership positions within the AFL-CIO, where two CLUW members have become the first women to serve on the federation's executive council. For the first time in the organization's history, CLUW took positions at this conference in direct opposition to the AFL-CIO, passing resolutions supporting a nuclear freeze and calling for an immediate end to US military intervention in Central America. These concerns, as well as the 18,000-member organization's support for comparable pay for women for comparable work and divestiture from South Africa, indicate a new turn in the organization's orientation.

FRENCH CABINET RESHUFFLED: The French Communist Party refused to participate in the new government formed by incoming Prime Minister Laurent Fabius, supposedly in protest against President Mitterrand's economic-austerity policies and industrial-mod-

ernization plans, which may add another 200,000 people to the ranks of the country's two million unemployed. A more telling expression of worker unhappiness may be made by the communist-led General Confederation of Labor (CGT), the country's largest trade-union federation, against a self-proclaimed socialist government invoking the tried-and-true capitalist method of using unemployment to curb inflation. With the CP out of the cabinet (but still in parliament) the CGT may feel less inhibited about calling strikes.

ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY: Nobel Prize-winning economist George Stigler has given new meaning to the term "economic democracy". Observing that fewer than 53% of those eligible to vote cast a ballot in the 1980 US Presidential election, Stigler proposes a free-market solution to this problem: Since people with incomes over \$25,000 a year are twice as likely to vote as people with incomes under \$10,000, he suggests that things would be simpler if the poor could sell their unused votes to the rich—just the sort of unworldly advice one would expect of an ivory-tower academician. In real-world places like Chicago, the poor have been doing that for years without waiting for his advice.

UNIONS DRESS DOWN IRAN: "In the name of Allah," began a communique circulated to Iran Air staff members in Europe, "we bring to your attention that the attire of the Islamic uniform worn by the staff consists of coverage of the head and neck with buttons closed to the top." This meant, in effect, the *chador* for all female employees of Iran Air, whether Moslem or not. All over Europe—in Britain, in Germany, in Rome—women workers, backed by their unions, rebelled. "In 1980 they asked us to wear head scarves," said one Italian employee. "And for three years we did, winter and summer, even one July when the air conditioning broke down. But this is too much." The women stood their ground and won.

WHO?

"The middle class has no ideology, only a standard of living." (Edgardo Costa Reis, Washington correspondent for *O Globo* of Rio de Janeiro)

DANLY FIGHTS ON

(continued from Page 1)

services) to struck firms. Labor must be ready to shut down entire industries or conglomerates if necessary. None of this can be expected from today's misorganized and fragmented labor movement. Instead, we need One Big Union which recognizes the inevitable conflict between workers and bosses, and is determined to fight until we win the final victory and take control of industry ourselves.

Jon Bekken

LABOR NEWS

THE POSTAL STRIKE THAT ISN'T AND PROBABLY WON'T BE

At midnight July 21st, 1984, the contract of the four unions representing 600,000 US postal workers expired. Contract negotiations had ended 10 minutes earlier, when the presidents of the first and second largest postal unions, the 300,000-member American Postal Workers Union and the 200,000-member National Association of Letter Carriers, walked out after hearing the final offer of the US Postal Service. The "offer" included a three-year wage freeze, a 20% cut in entry-level pay (from \$21,700 a year to \$17,350), and a cut in the night-shift pay differential. The unions had demanded an 18% pay raise over the next three years, which the Postal Service (which has turned a net profit of \$1.4 billion in the last two years) claimed would mean a 28-cent first-class stamp.

Postal operations continued, the unions telling their members to work under the terms of the expired contract pending some decision on the next step. Mediation is likely, then binding arbitration if mediation fails. A strike would be illegal, and even a slowdown is unlikely, since President Reagan fired 11,400 striking PATCO air-traffic controllers for an illegal walkout three years ago. (Postal strikes can be very effective, though—Canadian postal workers have pulled some dandies in recent years.)

Meanwhile the Postal Service has announced that since the contract has expired, it is free to impose unilateral changes on the workers, and has started hiring new workers at 20¢ below the wages of current employees, and with shorter vacations and sick leaves.

Two-tier pay systems are still relatively rare, but have become an increasingly-popular management demand, as management sees them as a way of bringing down labor costs without directly confronting the existing work force. Unions realize that two-tier systems pit old workers against newcomers, who resent the old workers'

STRIKING WOODWORKERS HOLD ON

A year-old strike by 1600 workers at 19 Louisiana-Pacific Corporation sites in the Northwest continues, despite company-backed decertification elections. In 1983, seven major companies with wood-product operations in the Northwest negotiated three-year contracts with the International Woodworkers and the Lumber, Production, and Industrial Workers. Louisiana-Pacific had joined the group in previous years, but last year negotiated independently, insisting that it could screw the workers better on its own. The seven-company contract boosted typical starting mill workers' wages to nearly \$10 an hour; Louisiana-Pacific offered a starting wage of \$7 an hour, rising to \$8.50 after a year.

The two unions walked out of Louisiana-Pacific in June of 1983, and violence erupted on some picket lines. Negotiations continued until October before breaking off when Louisiana-Pacific rejected a union proposal.

Elections to decertify the unions have taken place at 10 of the sites struck. Nine units that voted the week of June 17th apparently voted to decertify the unions, according to incomplete results.

PILOTS, OTHERS URGE REHIRING OF AIR CONTROLLERS

Three years after President Reagan fired 11,400 striking members of the now-defunct Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO), the nation's leading organization of airline pilots is calling for their reinstatement to ease growing pressure on the air-traffic system. Air traffic is 5% greater than it was at the time of the PATCO strike over working conditions and pay in August 1981, and this increase, together with the continuing controller shortage, has produced mounting flight delays, particularly in crowded airports in the East. But reflecting Administration policy, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is standing firmly against calls to rehire employees guilty of what Reagan calls an illegal walkout.

The Aviation Consumer Action Project, a Ralph Nader group, recently concluded that the air-traffic-control system is so overburdened by too many airplanes and too few people to guide them that "It is urgent that something be done immediately. The only logical and realistic solution is to go to the pool of highly experienced and highly competent controllers that is available."

Representative Elliott Levitas (Democrat of Georgia), chairperson of a House subcommittee that deals with the air-traffic-control system, also suggested calling back the fired strikers. His remarks came in early July after he had conducted two days of hearings, initiated by an internal memo written by an FAA supervisor. The memo said controller workloads have become too heavy, leading to "a reduction in safety or a very high risk of a mid-air collision". The supervisor has since backed off on his strong words, saying that the present system is safe.

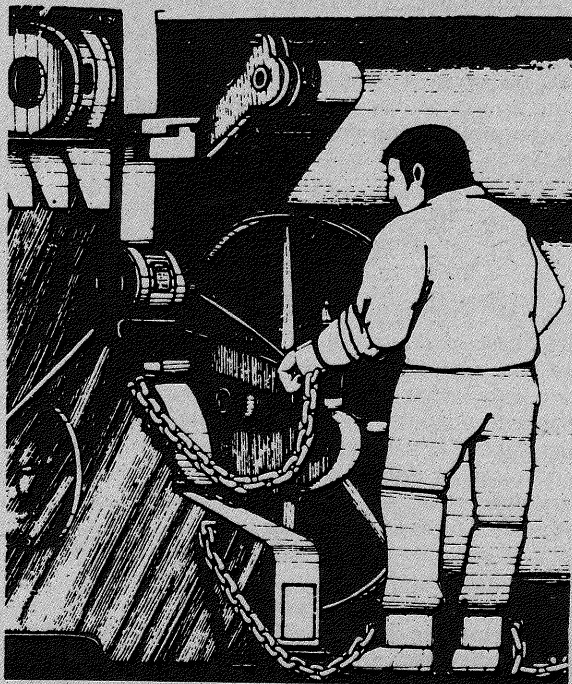
The chairperson of Pan American Airways wrote a letter to the FAA in May, complaining bitterly of air-traffic-control delays at New York's Kennedy International Airport. The air-traffic-control problem "has gone from bad to worse to horrible to intolerable", he said. But a spokesperson for United Airlines declared: "We have supported the President, and we have supported the FAA and the Secretary of Transportation, and their position is that they do not want to hire the fired controllers."

higher wages. The old workers, in turn, must fear that management will find an excuse to edge them out so less-expensive newcomers can take their places.

Two-tier pay was one of the most hotly disputed issues in recent labor confrontations at Greyhound and in the airline industry. In a United Automobile Workers strike recently against Boeing, however, union leaders opposed two-tier pay, but the membership of the union short-sightedly voted in favor of it, preferring to shift the cut onto the next generation of workers rather than take a stand against the scheme altogether.

plp

ORGANIZE the UNORGANIZED



The Portland, Oregon-based company's looming victory comes at a time when unions have been weakened by membership losses during the wood-industry recession. Membership in the International Woodworkers declined from 34,000 to 21,000 during the late '70s and membership in the Lumber, Production, and Industrial Workers declined from 42,000 to about 30,000.

The AFL-CIO has undertaken a boycott of Louisiana-Pacific.

plp

Revolutionary Union News

FRANCE: On June 4th the personnel of the ambulance service "SOS-Ambulance", organized by the National Confederation of Labor (CNTF, French section of the anarcho-syndicalist International Workers Association), was occupied to protest the layoff of 23 of the 29 workers employed.

SOS had lost its contract with a hospital, Pellegrin de Bordeaux, which was taken up by a health-transport cooperative, SCOPAV. According to French labor law, if one ambulance company loses its contract to another, the new contractor is obliged to retain the former contractor's employees. This SCOPAV refused to do so on the ground that SOS had failed to respond to the hospital management's offer of a new contract. SCOPAV also claims that it can't afford to take on 23 new people. The workers occupied SOS to protest the enterprise's failure to try to retain their contract with Pellegrin de Bordeaux.

The workers suspect that SOS's "failure" was an attempt to rid itself of the workers affiliated with the CNTF. In October of last year SOS workers struck 17 days for higher wages, a diminution of the wage differential between licensed and non-licensed drivers, and an end to individual bonuses. Following this struggle the workers bolted from the Communist-dominated CGT and joined the CNTF due to the solidarity they showed during the strike.

As of this writing (August 11th) we have no word as to the outcome of this latest struggle.

SPAIN: On June 29th and 30th and July 1st a "Unification Congress" was held in Madrid bringing together the National Confederation of Labor-Valencia (CNT-V, also known as *renovadoras*) and the CNT-AIT-opposition (a grouping of some 22 unions recently expelled from the anarcho-syndicalist CNT-AIT (Madrid), the Spanish section of the International Workers Association). The "opposition" was expelled earlier this year for refusing to go along with the CNT's Sixth Congress decision to continue a boycott of the so-called union elections to the enterprise committees and for maintaining contact with the CNT-Valencia and seeking to bring about unification of the organizations.

The Madrid CNT-AIT has denounced the "Unification Congress" as another attempt to legitimize the *escisionistas*, whom they consider reformist, and to purge the CNT of its historical anarchist content. The

PHELPS-DODGE BATTLE CONTINUES

Striking copper miners in Clifton, Arizona beat back an attack by state police on their picket line June 30th, forcing the Phelps-Dodge Corporation to cancel two shift changes and keep scabs inside the company's smelter overnight. Over a hundred police from the Department of Public Safety attacked strikers without provocation, firing tear gas and wooden bullets into strikers and supporters gathered in the town of Clifton. Strikers, children, and supporters responded with a shower of rocks and bottles, forcing the DPS to retreat.

As the DPS goons retreated, strikers built barricades out of railroad ties, boulders, tires, and steel drums. A second attack was halted by the strikers, reinforced by others who had heard of the battle. About 20 people were arrested during the attack, and several more were injured by wooden bullets.

About a thousand workers are still on strike in the towns of Ajo, Bisbee, Clifton, Douglas, and Morenci, Arizona, and El Paso, Texas. The workers, represented by 13 unions, have been on strike since July 1st, 1983, fighting a concession package that includes a dual wage scale with newly-hired workers receiving \$1.25 an hour less, loss of the cost-of-living allowance, and cuts in medical benefits. The unions are fighting to force Phelps-Dodge to sign the industry-wide pattern agreement, which freezes wages.

The strike has been the scene of major battles between strikers and scabs and police, with hundreds of state police and National Guardsmen sent in by the state to shut down picket lines last year.

Early in July scabs filed petitions with the National Labor Relations Board seeking to decertify the striking unions. Under US labor law, only the scabs will be allowed to vote in the election, so decertification seems certain. The unions are contesting the holding of elections, based on Phelps-Dodge's refusal to bargain in good faith.

Though many feel that the national union leadership has abandoned the strike, miners continue to hold out. The strikers are dependent on solidarity donations to continue their struggle. Donations for medical supplies can be sent to the People's Clinic, North Coronado Boulevard, Clifton, Arizona 85533. Donations for strike relief can be sent to the USWA Local 616 Strike and Defense Fund, PO Box 1017, Clifton 85533.

It will take more than money, however, to win this strike. Labor is going to have to mobilize its ranks to shut down the mines and to extend the strike to other Phelps-Dodge operations, or the strike will be lost. The days when isolated struggles could be waged against vulnerable employers are disappearing as multinational conglomerate organizations become increasingly dominant. Active world labor solidarity is necessary to win under the present conditions.

JB



main line of demarcation is still whether or not the CNT should participate tactically in the Government-sponsored enterprise committees, with the bitterness of factional feuding adding fuel to the fire.

SPAIN: A few more details have arrived on the 17th Congress of the International Workers Association, held in Madrid over Easter weekend. According to *Solidaridad Obrera*, the organ of the Catalan CNT-AIT, over 200 delegates representing sections in 15 countries attended the event. The US was represented at the Congress by the Libertarian Workers Group, based in New York City. Asked about its membership by a reporter from the news agency EFE, the AIT replied that exact figures were hard to determine, since in many countries in Latin America and Eastern Europe the sections exist only clandestinely, but there are about 500,000 members world-wide.

A communication was read from the IWW broaching the subject of a possible international conference of revolutionary unionists to be held in Chicago on May 1st, 1986, the hundredth anniversary of May Day, to commemorate the struggle for the eight-hour day and to begin a struggle for a four-hour day.

GREAT BRITAIN: The Direct Action Movement (DAM, the British section of the AIT) has been active in the coal strike. It has primarily been raising money throughout the country and in foreign lands, thanks to its international contacts, and has been active in opposing the Polish Government's efforts to export coal to England to help break the strike. It has supplied the *Industrial Worker* with valuable information on the strike.

Mike Hargis

Elections? Thanks A Lot!

(Editor's note: The IWW takes no position on electoral politics and supports no political party. Thus the following article represents solely the views of its author.)

The heat of the election campaign is upon us. One

Human Ills Trail Decline

Judging by the after-effects of the 1973-74 recession (a considerably milder one than the one we've just been through), the US will face a wave of suicides, homicides, mental-health problems, drug abuse, infant deaths, and increased deaths from all causes as the full impact of the recession is felt. The disastrous social and health consequences of periods of high unemployment linger up to three years after a recession has bottomed out, according to M. Harvey Brenner, a Johns Hopkins scientist who has pioneered studies of how economic hardships effect health.

Brenner, who has been studying the link between death rates and economic recessions dating back to the '30s, says the three biggest factors affecting health and social behavior are unemployment, business failure, and income reduction. Even people who retain their jobs are subject to lack of promotion, increased competition between co-workers, speed-up, work overload caused by shortages of employees, and an atmosphere of anxiety and tension which can generate stresses nearly equivalent to those caused by loss of employment.

Thus Brenner fears the 1980-81 (sic) recession will cause 500,000 to 700,000 deaths from heart attacks, strokes, and kidney disease over the next few years. The vast majority of people who experienced economic hardship will not die, but the stress conditions of such hardship will accelerate old illnesses and increase new ones, hastening early deaths. A further breakdown of the effects of unemployment that can be expected includes an additional 83,481 deaths from heart disease, 1,924 deaths from cirrhosis of the liver, 907 suicides, 28,248 hospitalizations in mental institutions, 38,774 cases of embezzlement, 23,611 assaults, and 1,938,384 arrests. Unemployment is directly related to an increase in cigarette smoking, and business failure is related to

cannot turn on a radio, watch a TV, or glance at a newspaper without being subjected to a barrage of electoral news and propaganda. So why should the *Industrial Worker* be any different? The IWW, of course, takes no position on elections or political parties, preferring to

increases in smoking, alcohol use, and divorce.

The greatest psychological hardships occur when the hope of re-establishing former positions is lost. Victims experience loss of social identity, loss of basic economic resources, and loss of primary social relationships. Other population groups particularly affected by unemployment include those on the poorest socio-economic level, elderly people, infants whose parents may not be able to afford proper care, teenagers, and discouraged workers who are no longer looking for jobs.

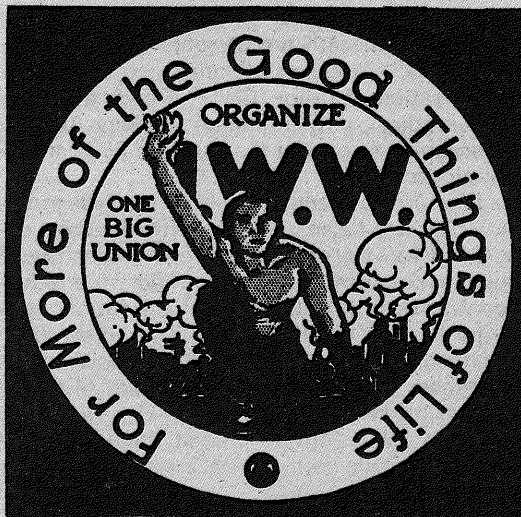
Quite a price to pay for stopping inflation; but then those who pay and those who benefit are not the same people.



BOSTON YUPPIES SHAFT FISHERMEN: The waters of Boston Harbor still teem with lobsters, but the lobster fishermen fear their own days may be numbered. The problem is that Boston's waterfront has become so popular with upscale developers pandering to gentrifying yuppies (young urban professionals) that fishing crews have no place to dock their boats. The wharves where side trawlers, scallopers, and draggers used to dock are now the sites of apartments and boutiques, threatening the jobs of not only the 90-odd fishermen, but also the 4,000 ancillary workers who handle and deliver their catch. The lobstermen are pressuring Boston Mayor Ray Flynn to help them get a federal grant to buy a parcel of land where they can set up a lobster co-operative, which would include a bait-refrigeration unit to be shared by all the fishermen, a common storage area, and a loading dock for trucks to haul away the day's catch.

IWW CONSTITUTION REPRINTED

A new edition of the IWW Constitution has just been printed, incorporating all amendments through April 1984. This edition, which replaces the 1976 version, is available for \$1. Standard discount terms apply.



BUTTONS AVAILABLE

We've just re-issued two classic IWW buttons. The first reads "For More of the Good Things of Life", the slogan surrounding the Patterson graphic. The second notes "Our Power Lies in Organization: Build Militant Unionism", with the words surrounding three rising fists. Both buttons are black and red on white backgrounds and 1½ inches in diameter; and they cost 75¢ each, with normal quantity discounts available. Get yours now.

Available from Local Groups and Branches:

From New York City Branch: **A Worker's Guide to Direct Action.** 50¢. PO Box 183, New York, NY 10028.

From the Tacoma/Olympia Branch: **Fellow Union Member.** 10¢ ea.; bundles of 5 to 15, 5¢ ea.; 16 to 500, 3¢ ea.; over 500, 2¢ ea. 2115 S1 Sheridan Ave., Tacoma, WA 98405.

From the San Francisco Branch: **Introduction to the IWW.** 10¢ ea.; bulk rate 40% discount, paid in advance, 30% of not.) PO Box 40485, San Francisco, CA 94140.

PLEASE SEND ALL ORDERS TO: IWW, 3435 N. SHEFFIELD, SUITE 202, CHICAGO, IL 60657 UNLESS OTHERWISE DESIGNATED.

focus its energies on the industrial battlefield, where our power as workers lies. But this writer, at least, has succumbed to the temptation to add his two bits to the fray.

In 1984, we are told, we face a clear-cut choice. The Republicans are running on the economic recovery (why anyone would want to abuse such a frail, sickly thing is beyond me), while the Democrats are campaigning on their claim that they're not Republicans.

There is no denying that millions of people have suffered under Reagan's Presidency. Millions have been thrown on the unemployment lines, thousands off the welfare rolls. Social programs have suffered extensive damage, though most of the impact on poor people is more directly attributable to the collapse of the economy, which despite the claims of assorted pundits is not in the midst of recovery (except for profits). Millions are scared to death of Reagan's war budget and proclivities toward military intervention, and rightly so (though they would do far better to organize direct action to halt these programs).

But do the Democrats have any answers? I think not. Mondale attacks Reagan for his interventionism and his massive military budgets, yet Mondale himself is committed to huge increases in the military budget only marginally smaller than those proposed by Reagan. Mondale and Ferraro have gone to great lengths to assure us that they will not hesitate to send US troops anywhere where the bosses' interests are threatened (and Mondale's record lends support to these "assurances"). Mondale attacks Reagan for his anti-labor policies, but when Mondale was Vice-President he supported then-President Carter's decision to invoke the Taft-Hartley Act in an attempt to force striking coal miners back to work. (The absence of any call for the repeal of Taft-Hartley in the Democratic platform is no accident.) The plans to bust PATCO were drawn up by the Carter-Mondale Administration, and played a major role in that union's decision to back Reagan last time out.

It was the Carter-Mondale Administration that sent US troops to El Salvador to prop up the vicious military regime that still rules that country. Carter-Mondale instituted draft registration, promoted expensive new weapon systems, and beat the Cold War drums. (Similarly, without Democratic support in Congress, few if any of Reagan's policies could have been implemented.) I am unable to muster any enthusiasm for Fritz; I remember all too well the last time he and his party occupied the White House. Those were not good times either.

The AFL-CIO has a much shorter memory, and it has gone all-out for Mondale. The Service Employees International Union exhorts us to vote for Mondale because he's a member of that union (how Mondale got to be a service worker is not explained). The *AFL-CIO News* informs us that more than 600,000 delegates at the Democratic Convention were members of AFL-CIO unions, and exhorts us to campaign for Mondale as if our jobs depended on it. Many others have leapt to join the Mondale campaign, asking for little and getting less.

The Industrial Workers of the World, however, has always refrained from supporting political parties and candidates, holding that the solution to unemployment, war, hunger, and other social problems can best be found through workers' taking over industry and running it in accordance with our needs and interests. We have viewed direct action as more effective, simpler, and more empowering than gambling on the legislative and political process. Recent events—and the string of political defeats that have been handed to the labor movement over the last 40 years—confirm the wisdom of this course.

Jon Bekken

NEW SONGBOOK AVAILABLE

The long-awaited 35th edition of the IWW's "Little Red Songbook" is finally in print. This completely-revised edition contains 40 songs, including 26 old favorites and 14 songs included for the first time. In a major departure from previous editions, nearly all the songs in the new version contain music and chord signatures.

Among the new songs are Phil Ochs' tribute to Joe Hill, "This Little Scab", Utah Phillips' "All Used Up", and "Still Ain't Satisfied".

This is the 35th in a series of songbooks started in 1909 and preceded by a card of four songs in 1908. In this edition, words to many songs have been added to or changed in order to keep them topical and relevant.

The working class needs fewer piecards and more singing. It is in this spirit—and in the spirit of revolutionary industrial unionism that the IWW has embodied since its founding in 1905—that this new edition of the songbook is released.

Copies of the songbook may be ordered from the IWW, 3435 North Sheffield (202), Chicago, Illinois 60657, for \$1.75 each. Get yours today.

Literature

Practical and Informational:

Organizing Manual	\$.75
Collective Bargaining Manual75
*Labor Law for the Rank and Filer	2.50
*Inflation, Cause and Cure25
One Big Union (About the IWW)	1.00
The General Strike, by Ralph Chaplin75
Unions and Racism	1.00
IWW Preamble and Constitution	1.00
Metal Workers' Guide to Health and Safety on the Job50
A Quiz on You and the Arms Race10
(10 copies, .75; 100 copies, 3.00; 2.50 per additional 100.)	

Music and Poetry:

IWW Songbook	1.75
The Rebel Girl (Sheet music)50
Workers of the World	
Awaken (Sheet music)50
*Didactic Verse, by Henry Pfaff	2.00
*The Grievance95

Historical:

The IWW's First 70 Years (Hard.)	15.00
The IWW's First 70 Years (Paper)	4.95
*Founding Convention of the IWW	15.00
History of the IWW in Canada50
Joe Hill: IWW Songwriter	1.00
*Lucy Parsons: American Revolutionary	5.95
*Autobiography of Mother Jones	5.95
*The Right to be Lazy	1.75

Posters:

Joe Hill	5.00
General Strike	5.00
Huelga General	5.00
Draftees of the World Unite	5.00
4 Hours Work for 8 Hours Pay	5.00
Fat Cat	5.00

*These items are offered for sale as a convenience to the readers of the IW. They are not official IWW literature, and the union takes no position on their content. The IWW does not engage in direct or indirect alliances with political or anti-political groups or sects.

LITERATURE DISCOUNT POLICY

Bulk orders of five or more of any item on the IWW literature list, unless otherwise indicated, may be ordered at a 40% discount if orders are prepaid. We offer a 30% discount on similar orders which we must invoice. Postage will be added to all orders that are not prepaid. Please allow three weeks for delivery.

Do Workers Want Peace?

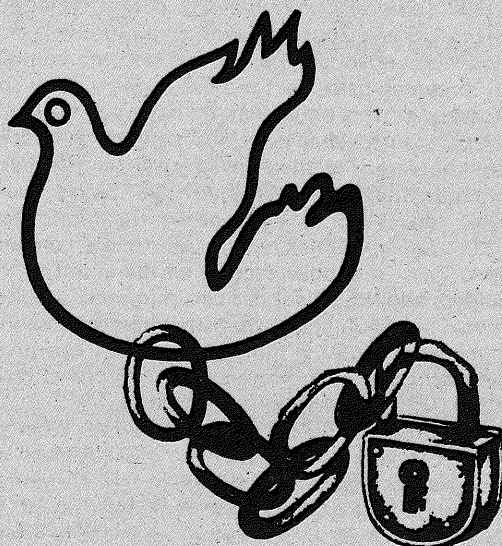
Workers and the Peace Movement, by Murray Bookchin, Comment Publishers, PO Box 158, Burlington, Vermont 05402, 1983, \$2. Make checks payable to Murray Bookchin.

"A vigorous attempt is being made these days to create a sense of guilt among peace activists who blockade weapons-producing plants. Such activists, we are told, tend to be politically and ideologically 'counterproductive'. They 'alienate' workers who are 'compelled' by their material needs and responsibilities to produce weapons. These workers, it is argued, are obliged to make weapons by a system they never created. They should be spared the problem of encountering peace activists who obstruct their access to their plant—or to use a more poignant word, their 'jobs'." (Page 1)

In his most recent pamphlet, Murray Bookchin justifiably attacks those socialists who place jobs ahead of any ethical considerations. Just because workers are exploited does not relieve them of their moral responsibilities as human beings. A distinction must be made between "work which results in weapons production and work which results in useful goods". Peace activists who blockade weapon plants should be admired for their sacrifices and courage, instead of being condemned as "middle-class" ne'er-do-wells.

If Bookchin had stuck to this theme, *Workers and the Peace Movement* might have helped to reconcile the differences between labor and peace activists. Unfortunately, after making his point about the immorality of life-threatening jobs, Bookchin launches into a long-winded argument that peace activists are morally superior to workers. It is ironic that the author counters what he considers socialist and syndicalist dogmas with an analysis as tortuous and oblivious to the facts as ever came out of any Stalinist hack.

For example, while Bookchin mentions some historical examples of worker resistance to the system, like the Paris Commune and the Spanish Revolution, he concludes that workers are "machined objects... imbued with the mechanical routine of the factory" (Page 15). The working class has no potential for ending militarism or any other aspect of bourgeois society, he writes, since the working class is an integral part of that society. Bookchin then must go to great lengths to explain away all evidence that doesn't fit. Workers are never "revolutionary", but can only be "militant". Workers who despise war do so only in their "neighborhoods", not in their workplaces. The great worker revolts were made by "peasants in overalls", not by "hereditary" workers. On the other hand, Bookchin refuses to see that the



peace movement has its own reformist and reactionary elements. A couple years ago in Champaign, several IWW members were involved in a local anti-nuclear alliance, which we tried to get to picket the nearby nuclear construction site. Here too, it was argued that by picketing we would "alienate" the nuclear workers. Only in Champaign, it was not the socialists or syndicalists that made this argument, but the "classless" peace activists.

As Wobblies, we realized that workers can respond to ethical appeals as much as anyone; so we formed our own working-class anti-nuclear group and picketed the construction site on our own initiative. We based the new group on the "Greenban" movements in the Australian trade unions, and called for a similar strategy of boycotting anti-social jobs. The reactions of the nuclear construction workers were mixed, but many of the younger workers were friendly to our pickets.

Bookchin rightly points out that only a tiny minority of the working class is revolutionary. Yet the same can be said of the peace movement. This makes it crucial that revolutionary minorities within both camps find ways to work together. During its 1983 Convention, the IWW called on the international labor movement to cease the production and transport of nuclear weapons. But we recognize that workers cannot stop militarism by themselves. The efforts of all people of conscience will be needed. How about it, Murray—are you willing to give us a hand?

Jeff Stein

Fighters for Anarchism

Fighters for Anarchism—Mollie Steimer & Senya Fleshin
Edited by Abe Bluestein, Soil of Liberty, PO Box 7056,
Powderhorn Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407,
96 pages, illustrated, \$4

As Paul Avrich writes in this fine memorial volume, Mollie Steimer (1897-1980) and her companion Senya Fleshin (1894-1981) were "among the last of the old-time anarchists with an international reputation". Avrich's biographical sketch traces their lifelong struggle for the revolutionary cause in the US, Russia, Germany, France, and finally Mexico, where they worked closely with the Tierra y Libertad group. The book also includes translations of articles and statements by Steimer and Fleshin, including Steimer's moving tributes to her old friends Alexander Berkman and Vsevolod Voline. Perhaps the most important of these texts is their response to the controversial "Platform" issued in 1926 by other Russian anarchists, including Peter Arshinov and Nestor Makhno. Arguing that "the aims of an organization are determined in large part by its form", and reaffirming the federalist principle of "autonomy at the base", Steimer, Fleshin, and their comrades rejected the Platformists' call for a highly-centralized organization that would create "a political and tactical line for the anarchist movement". Their criticisms are similar to those put forth by the Italian anarchist Errico Malatesta (published a few years ago in English in the Cienfuegos Press *Anarchist Review*, Number 5). A very different point of view in the same debate was taken by the Russian anarcho-syndicalist G.P. Maximoff in his *Constructive Anarchism*. A collection of all the responses to the "Platform" would be of exceptional interest, for the whole discussion, as Abe Bluestein remarks, "deals with prob-

lems of organization and freedom that remain concerns of the anarchist movement all over the world".

A collective portrait of two valiant revolutionists, whose whole lives were devoted to the cause of working-class emancipation, *Fighters for Anarchism* is a welcome addition to the libertarian bookshelf.

Franklin Rosemont

IWW DOWN UNDER

Does anyone have old correspondence from Wobs in Australia prior to 1930? Historian Veritty Burgmann (School of Humanities, Deakin University, Victoria 3217, Australia) is writing a book on the IWW in Australia, but finds that Wobs there didn't keep carbons of the letters they sent. The IWW office doesn't have them because the Government took those files and didn't return them.

An article by Burgmann in the Australian journal *Labour History* cites two recent doctoral theses on efforts to suppress the IWW there during World War I: one by Francis M. Cain in 1979 and the other by Kevin J. Fewster in 1980. During that period the suppressed Wobblies still managed to keep themselves conspicuous. Burgmann cites some recollections of Tom Barker:

"In Sydney Harbour we had a big following among the ship repairers and painters. When they were painting the side of a ship they would first draw 'IWW' in very big letters on it, and then would start on the outside and work gradually toward this, so that during the whole of the time anybody coming into the Harbour or passing would see these enormous letters on the ship, waiting to be painted in. One night at Central Station I saw an engine come in from the shops, groomed ready for going out on the road, and the way it had been done reflected light on the side so you could distinctly see the letters IWW shining on the engine."

The Australian Government curtailed IWW activities there, but could not kill its message of industrial solidarity and freedom.

ft

WAGE SLAVE'S DICTIONARY

Quality Circle: A workplace organization started by management to get workers to chase each other around in circles so they'll get too dizzy to be concerned about the quality of anything.

IWW Directory



ALASKA: Anchorage: Ruth Sheridan, Delegate, 4704 Kenai, Anchorage, Alaska 99508. Juneau/Douglas IWW, Barry Roderick, Delegate, PO Box 748, Douglas, Alaska 99824. Fairbanks: Chris White, Delegate, Box 72938, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707.

BRITISH COLUMBIA: Vancouver IWW, Box 34334, Station D, Vancouver, BC V6J 4P3, Canada, (604) 430-6605. West Kootenay IWW, PO Box 941, Nelson, BC V1L 6A5, Canada.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Pat McConkey, Delegate, 1868 Columbia Road Northwest (610), Washington DC 20009.

CALIFORNIA: Little River: Industrial Union 130, c/o Graham, PO Box 302, Little River, California 95456. San Diego, Sandra Dutky, Delegate, 4472 Georgia, San Diego, California 92116, (619) 296-9966. San Francisco Bay Area General Membership Branch, PO Box 40485, San Francisco, California 94140. Oakland: Richard Ellington, Delegate, 6448 Irwin Court, Oakland, California 94609, (415) 658-0293.

FLORIDA: Fred Hansen, Box 824, New Port Richey, Florida 33552.

GEORGIA: Elton Manzione, Delegate, 729 Pulaski, Athens, Georgia 30603, (404) 353-1218.

GUAM: Guam IWW Group, Shelby Shapiro, Delegate, PO Box 864, Agana, Guam 96910.

IDAHO: IWW Delegate, Route 1, Box 137, Potlach, Idaho 83855. Southeastern Idaho Forest Workers Affinity Group, IU 120, Box 764, Pocatello, Idaho 83201.

ILLINOIS: Champaign-Urbana IWW, Jeff Stein, Delegate, 1007 North Randolph, Champaign, Illinois 61820. Chicago General Membership Branch, IWW, 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago, Illinois 60657, (312) 549-5045. Meetings first Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm.

INDIANA: IWW Delegate, PO Box E-206, Richmond, Indiana 47374.

KANSAS: Lawrence: Jovan Weismiller, Delegate, 917 Ohio, Apartment A, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

LOUISIANA: General Defense Committee, Arthur J. Miller, Secretary, PO Box 52282, New Orleans, Louisiana 70152.

MANITOBA: Winnipeg IWW, "Haywire Brack", Delegate, Box 161, Station C, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 3S7, Canada.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston General Membership Branch, PO Box 454, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. Meetings first Sunday of each month, 522-7090 or 625-5107. Western Massachusetts IWW Delegate, PO Box 157, Deerfield, Massachusetts 01373.

MICHIGAN: Ann Arbor/Detroit General Membership Branch, c/o Kaufmann, 42 South Summit, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197. Copper County: Robin Oye, Delegate, PO Box 392, Hancock, Michigan 49930. Grand Rapids: IWW Delegate, 415 Ethel, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506. People's Wherehouse IU 660 Branch, c/o Kozura, 2237 Shadowood, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. University Cellular IU 660 Job Branch, 341 West Liberty, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107.

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis/Saint Paul IWW, Nancy Arthur Collins, Delegate, 1621 Marchall (3), Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104.

MONTANA: Clark Fork Valley IWW, PO Box 8562, Missoula, Montana 59807, (406) 728-6053. Thompson Falls: A. L. Nurse, Delegate, Route 5, Box 88, Thompson Falls, Montana 59874, (406) 827-3238.

NEW MEXICO: New Mexico General Membership Branch, PO Box 4872, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87196.

NEW YORK: Buffalo: Henry Pfaff, Delegate, 77 Eckhart, Buffalo, New York 14207, (716) 877-6073. Central New York General Membership Branch, c/o McKown, 1121 Westcott, Syracuse, New York 13210. New York City General Membership Branch, PO Box 183, New York, New York 10028. Rego Park: Jackie Panish, Delegate, 99-12 65th Road (5-J), Rego Park, New York 11374, (212) 868-1121.

OHIO: IWW Delegate, PO Box 26381, Dayton, Ohio 45426.

ONTARIO: Brian Burch, Delegate, 257B Carlton Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4A 2L4.

PENNSYLVANIA: Tom Hill, Delegate, PO Box 41928, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Harbinger Publications, IU 450 Job Shop, 18 Bluff Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, (803) 254-9398.

TEXAS: Austin: Andrew Lee, Delegate, 3402 Enfield (B), Austin, Texas 78703, (512) 472-7854. Houston: Gilbert Mers, Delegate, 7031 Kernel, Houston, Texas 77087, (713) 921-0877.

WASHINGTON: Bellingham General Membership Branch, PO Box 1386, Bellingham, Washington 98227, (206) 671-5209. Meetings third Sunday of each month, 6:30 pm. Seattle General Membership Branch, 3238 33rd Avenue South, Seattle, Washington 98144. Tacoma/Olympia General Membership Branch, 2115 South Sheridan, Tacoma, Washington 98405, (206) 272-8119.

WISCONSIN: Madison General Membership Branch and General Defense Committee Local 9, c/o 432 Sidney, Madison, Wisconsin 53703.

IW SUSTAINING FUND

(Received During July 1984)

Tom Hill, Philadelphia, PA	\$30.00
Tom Pinkerton, Plymouth, MI	5.00
Semel/Poulos, New York, NY	50.00
Marc Jaints, San Francisco, CA	3.00
Jack Ujanen, Lakeworth, FL	40.00
Eugene Cunnar, Las Cruces, NM	3.00

TOTAL \$131.00

Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

BUILD SOLIDARITY

Stockholder's Manifesto

I have come up with a few suggestions as to how best to turn around our ailing economy, troubled though it's been for 208 years now. However, unlike the capitalists' obsession with plans that deal with workers, mine emphasizes the role of the stockholders.

(1) *Automation*: Since we are bombarded with messages in the mainstream media and in the school system about the glories of computers and robots, let's use them to phase out stockholders. Why should only workers have the pleasure of being replaced by them, when computers can just as easily be programmed to say "Gimme!" every month at stockholders' meetings? Robots sitting in for stockholders would also be much more efficient, since they don't have to go to the bathroom, get sick, or delay meetings by telling sexist and racist jokes. Plus a robot can inherit money and insist that he or she earned it just as easily as a human can.

(2) *Givebacks*: When companies claim that they are not making enough profits, dividends can be immediately cut in half so that the board of directors can afford their second houses, third marriages, and bribes to government officials. This way stockholders too can enjoy the pleasure of "working as a team with the company" and "doing what's best to support the superior American way of life". The privilege of sacrificing and not having food on the table is something that should be shared by all.

(3) *Capital Flight*: When a company closes a plant in the US and opens a new one in another country, the stockholders should be laid off and the workers flown, all expenses paid, to the new country. Why should the workers be the only ones to have variety in their lives by constantly changing jobs through layoffs? Let the stockholders lose their investments and forfeit all dividends so they too can enjoy those "productive and efficient moves" that "strengthen the world economy".

(4) *Sub-minimum Wage*: Anytime a company opens up offices in a poor section of the country, the stockholders should fall under sub-minimum stock-dividend laws. This would mean that stockholders could not make more than \$2.50 a month, hopefully opening up employment for all those teenage investors who only need it for "Bubblegum money" anyway.

(5) *Stockholder Ownership Schemes*: When a business is on the verge of bankruptcy, stockholders should be required to pledge their life savings to the company and lose all voting rights. This democratic right to own a bankrupt company, previously available to workers only through Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs), would then be available to everyone.

By implementing these five points, I see the potential for a vast improvement in the economic fortunes of this country and the world. Stockholders of the world, unite!

Bruce Kayton

Voluntary School Prayer

The year is 1988. We are visiting a public-school classroom somewhere in America's heartland. The first bell rings. The teacher leads her roomful of eight- and nine-year-olds through a half-hearted rendition of the "Pledge of Allegiance". Completing this formality, the teacher reaches into her desk and removes a small laminated card, peers over her glasses at the well-scrubbed faces, clears her throat, and prepares to read the text on the card.

"The Supreme Court of the United States grants you two minutes of voluntary prayer." She is reading in a dry monotone and wears a bored expression. "You have the right to express worship to the god and faith of your choice. Those wishing to refrain from exercising this right may do so without penalty or fear of discrimination." She replaces the card in the desk drawer, glances at the clock on the wall, and tells the students: "You may begin now."

A swarthy Arabic boy and Black Muslim girl turn toward Mecca, kneel, and begin melodiously praising Allah. Several Catholic students assemble themselves in a corner to mutter "Hail Mary"s. An Oriental boy spreads a small rug on the tile floor, assumes the lotus position, closes his eyes, and with a flick of his wrist begins spinning a Buddhist prayer wheel. He tilts his head back slightly and begins to chant a mantra. At the end of a row of desks, a malnourished-looking boy with a shaved head and scalplock sings "Hare Krishna"s to the clink of finger cymbals.

Two prim Haitian girls are spreading a black cloth with a multi-colored pentacle design over a desktop.

One of them removes a live chicken and a silver dagger from a box below the desk. Slim brown fingers pin the bird into position on the cloth. We see one of the girls clenching the knife several inches above the bird's breast. "Ogun, prince of darkness, light our way! Ogun, lord of the dead, curse our enemies!" they proclaim in patois. The knife is plunged into the bird. We hear a terrified squawk and watch a narrow stream of blood run down the cloth to form a small pool between two pairs of patent-leather shoes.

A Pentecostal girl in a gingham dress babbles in orgasmic ecstasy. "Huhtai! Abbah dabbah Jesus oontah!" she screams, and suddenly falls to the floor in an apparent grand-mal seizure. Her dress somehow tangles itself over her head and arms. She resembles an angry checkered pillow with kicking legs sticking out. The teacher rushes over, shoots an angry glance at the three agnostic and Unitarian children watching their classmates' antics with apparent amusement, and yanks the girl's dress down over her knees. She pauses momentarily to make sure the girl isn't choking on her tongue or drool. The remaining Baptist, Methodist, and other Protestant children are desperately trying to avoid being distracted. The teacher looks at the clock once more.

"All right, class. Time's up," she informs them. "Calvin, please help Mary Beth get up. Nicole? Angel? Get some paper towels from the lavatory and wipe up that blood. Class, please open your geography books to Page 146. Today we're going to learn about our 52nd state, Nicaragua."

Eric Glatz

Around Our Union

CHICAGO: The Chicago Branch of the IWW has been fairly active since the last Convention. Over the last year the Branch has sponsored a series of educational, both internal and public; actively supported several strikes; taken part in a few demonstrations; and done some informational leafleting.

Educational programs have included *Talking About Women Workers* (a film); "Labor Movement in South Africa" (a lecture discussion); "Eye-witness Nicaragua" (a slide show); and "The International Workers Association: Past, Present, and Future" (an internal discussion).

IWW members walked the picket line with the Greyhound strikers and with strikers at the Danly Machine Corporation, and took part in solidarity rallies for these strikes. Chicago Wobs also leafleted unemployment offices and Jewel stores, in response to that company's unilateral wage cutting. The Branch also recently sent a donation to Phelps-Dodge strikers.

You could also find Chicago IWWs at the Mothers' Day Peace March behind their banner, "Workers Should Not Shoot Each Other", and on a picket to protest the appearance of born-again butcher Efrain Rios Montt, ex-dictator of Guatemala, at a North Side church.

The Branch has also been publishing a newsletter, *Rebel Worker*.

WINNIPEG: On July 4th the Winnipeg IWW group sponsored a concert/educational featuring FW Faith Petric of San Francisco. Local delegate "Haywire Brack" opened the show with a short set and introduction, after which FW Petric held forth for two solid hours of working-class, anti-nuclear, and women's music. Following the concert, two new members signed up.

20-YEAR NO-STRIKE AGREEMENT SIGNED

Building-trades unions in Louisville, Kentucky have signed a 20-year no-strike agreement, according to *Labor Notes*. The agreement covers work sites in the city's "enterprise zone", where employers get tax breaks in exchange for hiring from the targeted area.

Also of note, for the first time in its 11-year history the Winnipeg Folk Festival offered a workshop on "The IWW—Songs and Traditions". Participating were IWW members Bob Bovee, "Haywire Brack", Jeff Cahill, Faith Petric, and "Utah" Phillips. Joining the scheduled performers on the stage was FW J. B. Freeman, a member of the Festival Site Crew this year, who brought down the house with his original song about the Nova Scotia mine disaster. FW Freeman's song ends with the lines: "I say let's make the bosses put their offices down below; then if they're bloody mines ain't safe they'll be the first to go."

IDAHO: Forest workers in the Middle Rocky Mountains have recently formed the "Southeastern Idaho Forest Workers' Affinity Group", a small group of IWW and other forest workers. The group are involved with establishing contacts with forest workers in scattered localities in the Middle Rocky Mountains and in laying a foundation for rank-and-file union activity in that area. Interested people can contact the group at PO Box 764, Pocatello, Idaho 83201.



Coal miners in England maintain their strike despite fierce police attacks, continued scabbing, and a lack of concrete labor solidarity. As the *Industrial Worker* goes to press, coal miners have just rejected a settlement proposal from the Thatcher Government.

PAYING THE PIPERS

When a company threatens to move to another country or go into bankruptcy, management often claims that American workers have priced themselves out of the labor market. Well, business executives must be right about these things, if the amounts they're being paid for their wisdom are any indication.

According to the *New York Times* (May 2nd), John Gutfrund, co-chairman of Philbro-Saloman, received a salary of \$2.08 million last year. John Scully, president of Apple Computers, received \$1.8 million. Barry Diller, senior executive vice-president of Gulf and Western, \$1.7 million. Roger Smith, chairman of General Motors, \$1.5 million. Edward Telling, chairman of Sears Roebuck, \$1.4 million.

The *New York Times* revealed that at least 45 American corporate executives received over a million dollars in cash wages last year, not including what they received in stock options and other "perks". The article also reported that the annual pay for executives increased 13.1% in 1983.

(reprinted from the *Wobble*)

INDUSTRIAL WORKER
3435 N. Sheffield Avenue
Chicago, IL 60657, USA
ISSN: 0019-8870

Second Class Postage
Paid at
Chicago, Illinois 60657

TO:

LABOR AND THE LAW

Back in 1976 the Meat Cutters (now in the UFCW) won an election at a Chicago tannery, Sun Tan. The next day management called the Immigration folks to raid the factory, as many who had voted for the union were Mexicans who had not legally entered. In 1984 the Supreme Court got around to ruling that Sun Tan had engaged in "an unfair labor practice".

The Court also upheld the seniority of Memphis fire fighters against the affirmative-action status of blacks hired later.

The British Columbia labor code has been changed to make it easier for employers to decertify unions, and harder for unions to win certification.

Steel workers on strike for 11 weeks at the Danly Machine Corporation in Cicero, a Chicago suburb, have filed a civil-rights suit in federal court to stop Chicago police from moonlighting as scab herders there. The Fraternal Order of Police insists there is nothing wrong with scab herding.

Subscribe to the Industrial Worker

NAME.....
STREET.....
CITY..... STATE/PROVINCE..... ZIP/POSTAL CODE.....

ENCLOSED IS:

☐ \$1.50 for a six-month introductory subscription
☐ \$4.00 for a one-year regular subscription
☐ \$8.00 for a one-year library subscription

☐ \$7.50 for a two-year regular subscription
☐ \$11.00 for a three-year regular subscription
☐ \$6.00 for a bundle of 5 copies monthly for 1 year
☐ \$..... as a donation to the IW Sustaining Fund

PLEASE SEND ALL ORDERS TO: IWW, 3435 N. SHEFFIELD, SUITE 202, CHICAGO, IL 60657